

NEW, CONTINUATION, DIVISIONAL OR
CONTINUATION-IN-PART APPLICATION
UNDER 37 C.F.R. §1.53(b)

Attorney Docket No. 5062-000001

Express Mail Label No. EL 581 379 465 US

Date July 21, 2000

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Hon. Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks
Washington, D. C. 20231

Sir:

Transmitted herewith for filing under 37 C.F.R §1.53(b) is a patent application for

PLASTIC BAG HOLDER

identified by: ☒ First named inventor Hal J. Miller, Jr.
or ☐ Attorney Docket No. (see above)

1. Type of Application

☒ This application is a new (non-continuing) application.

☐ This application is a ☐ continuation / ☐ divisional / ☐ continuation-in-part of prior application No. _____. Amend the specification by inserting before the first line the sentence:

--This is a [continuation/division/continuation-in-part] of United States patent application No. _____, filed _____--

☐ The entire disclosure of the prior application, from which a copy of the oath or declaration is supplied, is considered part of the disclosure of the accompanying application and is hereby incorporated by reference therein.

If for some reason applicant has not requested a sufficient extension of time in the parent application, and/or has not paid a sufficient fee for any necessary response in the parent application and/or for the extension of time necessary to prevent the abandonment of the parent application prior to the filing of this application, please consider this as a Request for an Extension for the required time period and/or authorization to charge our Deposit Account No. 08-0750 for any fee that may be due. THIS FORM IS BEING FILED IN TRIPLICATE: one copy for this application; one copy for use in connection with the Deposit Account (if applicable); and one copy for the above-mentioned parent application (if any extension of time is necessary).

2. Contents of Application

a. Specification of 8 pages;

- ☐ A microfiche computer program (Appendix);
☐ A nucleotide and/or amino acid sequence submission;

☐ Because the enclosed application is in a non-English language, a verified English translation ☐ is enclosed ☐ will be filed.

☐ Cancel original claims _____ of the prior application before calculating the filing fee. (At least one original independent claim must be retained for filing date purposes.)

- b. ☒ Drawings on 4 sheets;
c. ☒ A signed Oath/Declaration is enclosed herewith;
d. **Fees**

FILING FEE	Number	Number	Basic Fee
CALCULATION	Filed	Extra	Rate
Total Claims	6 - 20 =	0 x	\$18.00 =
Independent Claims	3 - 3 =	0 x	\$78.00 =
Multiple Dependent Claim(s) Used			\$260.00 =
FILING FEE - NON-SMALL ENTITY			\$690.00
FILING FEE - SMALL ENTITY: Reduction by 1/2 <input type="checkbox"/> Verified Statement under 37 C.F.R. §1.27 is enclosed. <input type="checkbox"/> Verified Statement filed in prior application.			
Assignment Recordal Fee (\$40.00)			
37 C.F.R. §1.17(k) Fee (non-English application)			
TOTAL			\$690.00

- ☒ A check is enclosed to cover the calculated fees. The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees that may be required, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 08-0750. A duplicate copy of this document is enclosed.
- ☐ The calculated fees will be paid within the time allotted for completion of the filing requirements.
- ☐ The calculated fees are to be charged to Deposit Account No. 08-0750. The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees that may be required, or credit any overpayment, to said Deposit Account. A duplicate copy of this document is enclosed.

3. Priority Information

- ☐ **Foreign Priority:** Priority based on _____ Application No. _____ filed _____, is claimed.
- ☐ A certified copy of the above referenced priority document is enclosed herewith.
- ☐ **Provisional Application Priority:** Priority based on United States Provisional Application No. _____, filed _____, is claimed under 35 U.S.C. §119(e).

4. **Other Submissions**

- ☐ A Preliminary Amendment is enclosed.
- ☐ An Information Disclosure Statement, _____ sheet of PTO Form 1449, and _____ patent(s)/publications/documents are enclosed.
- ☒ A power of attorney
- ☒ is submitted with the new Oath/Declaration.
- ☐ is of record in the prior application and ☐ is in the original papers / ☐ a copy is enclosed.
- ☐ An Assignment of the invention
- ☐ is enclosed with a cover sheet pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §§3.11, 3.28 and 3.31.
- ☐ is of record in a prior application. The assignment is to _____, and is recorded at Reel _____, Frame(s) _____.
- ☐ An Establishment of Assignee's Right To Prosecute Application Under 37 C.F.R. §3.73(b), and Power Of Attorney is enclosed.
- ☒ An Express Mailing Certificate is enclosed.
- ☐ Other: _____

Attention is directed to the fact that the correspondence address for this application is:

Harness, Dickey & Pierce, P.L.C.
P.O. Box 828
Bloomfield Hills, Michigan 48303
(248) 641-1600.

Respectfully,



H. Keith Miller, Reg. No. 22,484

Date *July 21, 2000*
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July 21, 2000

Hon. Commissioner of Patents
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Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

EXPRESS MAILING CERTIFICATE

Applicant: Hal J. Miller, Jr.

For: **Plastic Bag Holder**

Docket: 5062-000001

Attorney: H. Keith Miller

"Express Mail" Mailing Label Number..... **EL 581 379 465 US**

Date of Deposit **July 21, 2000**

I hereby certify and verify that the accompanying Transmittal Letter (in duplicate), 8 page Patent Application with executed Declaration and Power of Attorney, 4 sheets of informal Drawings showing Figures 1 - 4, and a Check for \$690.00 are being deposited with the United States Postal Service "Express Mail Post Office To Addressee" service under 37 C.F.R. 1.10 on the date indicated above and are addressed to the Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks, Washington, D.C. 20231.



Rose Faul

**APPLICATION FOR LETTERS PATENT OF
THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA**

For:
Plastic Bag Holder

By:
Hal J. Miller, Jr.

Attorney Ref.: 5062-000001

Plastic Bag Holder

FIELD OF THE INVENTION

The present invention relates generally to a handle device, and more particularly to a handle device that will hold several small plastic bags commonly used at grocery stores and other convenience markets.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

It is common for individuals to attempt to transport many articles at one time, often this is accomplished by placing several articles in bags. These bags most often have handles attached to them for ease of transport. However, in many instances an individual will attempt to carry several bags at a time.

One example includes trips to the local grocery store where purchases are placed into plastic bags for the customer to transport home. Though the bags are convenient for carrying several articles, generally more than one bag is necessary to include all purchases made. This necessitates the customer attempting to carry several plastic bags, often weighted down with many items. Attempting to hold these bags in the user's bare hands can be painful and difficult.

It is known in the art to use a holder or handle upon which several bags may be placed. These handles are ergonomically designed so as to allow for ease of use and reduce strain on the user's hand. One type of prior art holders simply provide a space which may contain the bags and which is then grasped by the hand. U.S. Patent No. 5,651,575 discloses such device, however, devices similar to these are not very

ergonomic and are bulky and provide little additional comfort. Another method includes attaching a hook to a larger handle such as that disclosed in U.S. Patent No. 5,645,306. Though these devices provide a slight increase in ease of use they are limited as to the amount that they can carry and provide little in the way of securing the bags onto the handle. A final device provides a locking mechanism as that disclosed in U.S. Patent No. 5,441,323. This final locking handle, however, is no longer one continuous piece. Rather, the locking mechanism is a separate ring that is not permanently integrated into the device.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

It is an object of the present invention to provide a device that creates a platform into which bag handles may be securely locked. It is an additional object of the present invention to reduce stress on the users hands when carrying several bags. Additionally, the present invention provides the device in a unitary construction of a durable medium that is long wearing yet flexible enough to allow a fully integrated interlocking mechanism.

Further areas of applicability of the present invention will become apparent from the detailed description provided hereinafter. It should be understood however that the detailed description and specific examples, while indicating preferred embodiments of the invention, are intended for purposes of illustration only, since various changes and modifications within the spirit and scope of the invention will become apparent to those skilled in the art from this detailed description.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

The present invention will become more fully understood from the detailed description and the accompanying drawings, wherein:

Figure 1 is a perspective view of the present invention in its unlocked position.

Figure 2 is a plan view of the present invention in its locked position.

Figure 3 is a plan view of the present invention in its unlocked position.

Figure 4 is a plan view of the present invention in an unlocked position with bags placed in the device.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENTS

Referring to Figure 1 the handle device 10 can be seen to be a continuous piece of material with two distinct regions 16 and 18, later described. A first end of the handle device 26 includes a bulb 12. A second end of the handle device 22 includes a bulb receiving area 14. The material from which the handle device 10 is constructed allows for enough flexibility to enable a user to move the first end 26 relative to the second end 22. By moving the first end 26 in the direction of arrow A and the second end 22 in the direction of arrow B the bulb 12 may be removed from or moved into the bulb receiving area 14. The design of the handle device 10 and the properties of the material are such that when the handle device 10 is in the unlocked position a gap between the first end 26 and the second end 22 of the handle device 10 appears.

With continuing reference to Figure 1 and further reference to Figure 2, the locked handle device 10 may be described. When the bulb 12 is received in the bulb receiving area 14 the handle device 10 is locked. When the handle device 10 is in the

locked position both regions 16 and 18 of the handle device 10 are fully enclosed and more definitely circumscribed. The hand region 16 allows for the user to place his hand in the handle device 10. Finger indentations 28 are formed in the upper portion of the handle device 10 in the hand region 16, providing additional comfort during use. Furthermore, the hips 24 are also close together when the handle device 10 is in the locked position. The hips 24, when closed, form the bottom portion of the hand region 16. Moreover, the hips 24 create the top portion and closure of the strap region 18. Straps of bags 30 may be placed in the strap region 18, as shown in Figure 4. The bulb 12 is then placed within the bulb receiving area 14 thus locking the handle device 10 closed. The strap region 18 is also closed.

Turning reference to Figures 1 and 3 the handle device 10 while open may be examined. From the closed position the first end 26 may be moved in the direction of arrow A and the second end 22 may be moved in the direction of arrow B to allow for the handle device 10 to be opened and more particularly directly opening the hand region 16. In doing this the hips 24 are also separated thus opening the strap region 18. In the open position articles may be introduced into the strap region 18. Once straps 30 are introduced into the strap region 18, as seen in Figure 4, the handle device 10 may then be re-closed, as in Figure 2, following the procedure outlined above.

As previously mentioned, the device 10 is of a one piece monolithic structure which can be fabricated by well known plastic injection molding technology. If desired, a suitable name, logo or advertising indicia can be molded directly on the device 10 and/or appropriate labeling can be affixed to either side of the device 10 adjacent the bulb 12 and bulb receiving area 14.

The invention being thus described, it will be obvious that the same may be varied in many ways. Such variations are not to be regarded as a departure from the spirit and scope of the invention, and all such modifications as would be obvious to one skilled in the art are intended to be included within the scope of the following claims.

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. A handle device for carrying articles comprising:
a single member having a first and second end formed to enclose a first hand loop for inserting a hand and a second article loop for enclosing articles;
said hand loop containing an interlocking portion for changeably interlocking said first and second sides of said member said interlocking portion being changeable from a locked position to an opened position and back again;
said article loop disposed adjacent to said hand loop; and
said article loop being closed when said hand loop is in said locked position.
2. The handle device of Claim 1, wherein said interlocking portion comprises:
a bulb disposed on a first end of said member; and
a bulb receiving section disposed in said second end of said member into which the bulb section is placed to lock said hand loop.
3. The handle device of Claim 2, wherein when said interlocking portion is in said open position articles may be placed through the opening and further into the article loop.
4. The handle device of Claim 2, wherein when said interlocking portion is in said locked position said hand loop fully circumscribed.
5. A device to carry several bags with handles comprising:

a continuous member encompassing a first loop and a second loop wherein both loops may be changeably opened and closed;

said second loop to receive and contain handles of bags;

said first loop may be locked in said closed position thereby creating a solid area into which a hand may be placed during use;

said second loop closes when said first loop is locked closed.

6. A method for carrying several articles with straps including the steps of:

placing straps of articles within an article strap section of a handle device which includes a first hand section which can be locked and a second strap section for the straps of the articles; and

locking said handle device to enclose the hand section and securing said straps in said strap section.

Plastic Bag Holder

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

The present invention discloses a handle device which allows ease of carrying several bags with straps. The present invention allows a user to place straps in the handle device and then lock the device to secure the straps within the confines of the handle device.

Figure 1

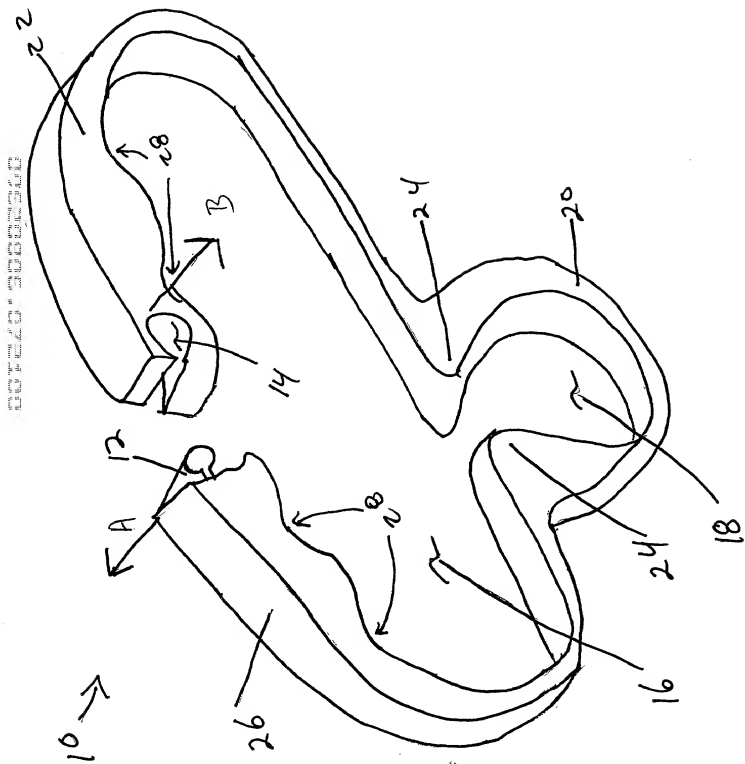


Figure 2

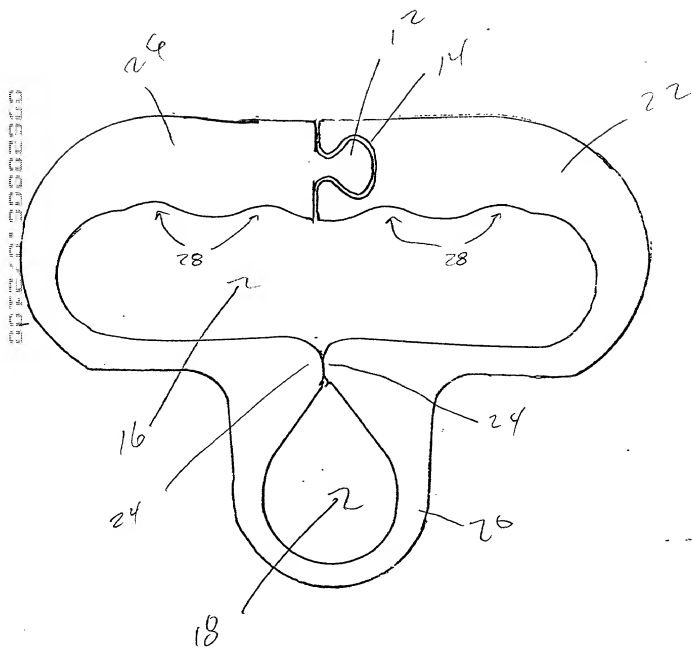


Figure 3

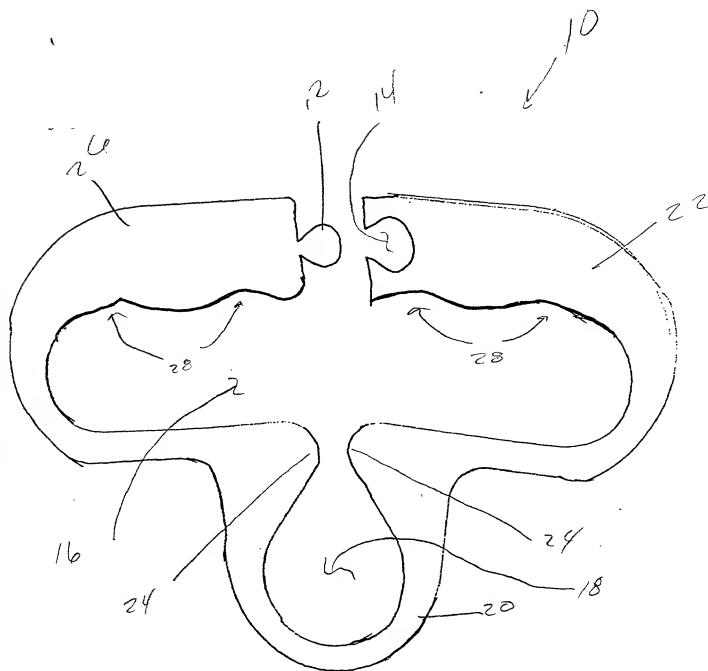
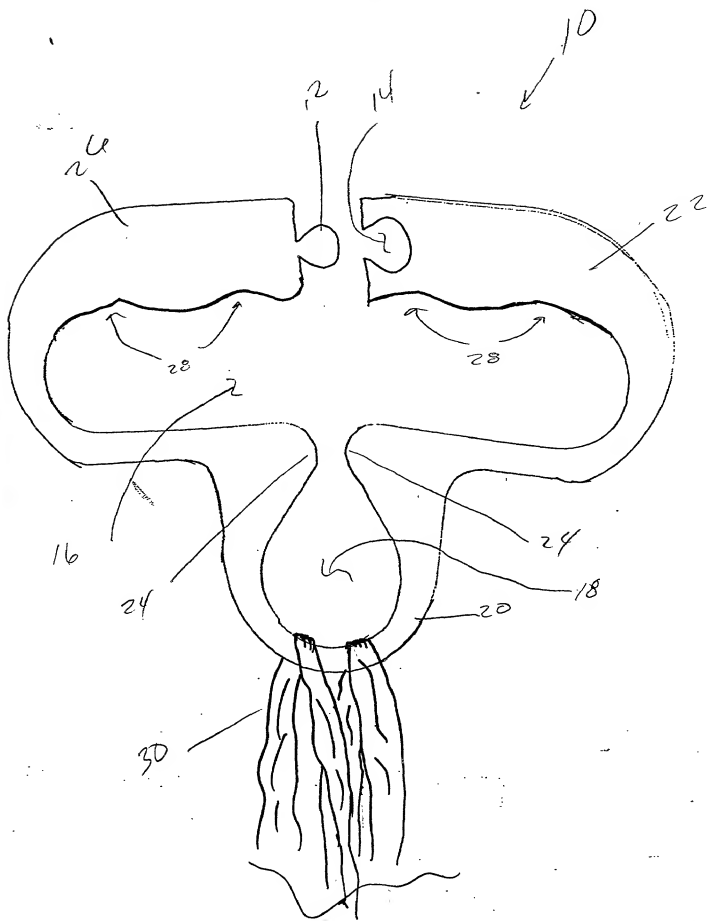


Figure 4



DECLARATION AND POWER OF ATTORNEY

As a below named inventor, I hereby declare that:

My residence, post office address and citizenship are as stated below next to my name,

I believe I am the original, first and sole inventor (if only one name is listed below) or an original, first and joint inventor (if plural names are listed below) of the subject matter which is claimed and for which a patent is sought on the invention entitled

PLASTIC BAG HOLDER

the specification of which (check one)

☒ [X] is attached hereto.

☐ [] was filed on _____ as Application Serial No. _____ and was amended on _____ (if applicable).

I hereby state that I have reviewed and understand the contents of the above identified specification, including the claims, as amended by any amendment referred to above.

I acknowledge the duty to disclose information which is material to the examination of this application or to the patentability of the invention claimed therein in accordance with Title 37, Code of Federal Regulations, section 1.56.

I hereby claim foreign priority benefits under Title 35, United States Code, section 119(a)-(d) of any foreign application(s) for patent or inventor's certificate listed below and have also identified below any foreign application for patent or inventor's certificate having a filing date before that of the application on which priority is claimed:

PRIOR FOREIGN APPLICATION(S)

			<u>Priority Claim</u>	
_____ (Number)	_____ (Country)	_____ (Day/Month/Year filed)	Yes	No
_____ (Number)	_____ (Country)	_____ (Day/Month/Year filed)	Yes	No
_____ (Number)	_____ (Country)	_____ (Day/Month/Year filed)	Yes	No

DECLARATION AND POWER OF ATTORNEY

I hereby claim the benefit under Title 35, United States Code, §119(e) of any United States Provisional application(s) listed below:

PRIOR PROVISIONAL APPLICATIONS

(application serial number)

(Month / Day / Year filed)

(application serial number)

(Month / Day / Year filed)

I hereby claim the benefit under Title 35, United States Code, section 120 of any United States application(s) listed below and, insofar as the subject matter of each of the claims of this application is not disclosed in the prior United States application in the manner provided by the first paragraph of Title 35, United States Code, section 112, I acknowledge the duty to disclose material information as defined in Title 37, Code of Federal Regulations, section 1.56 which became available between the filing date of the prior application and the national or PCT International filing date of this application:

Application Serial No.	Filing Date	Status - patented, pending, abandoned
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____

I hereby declare that all statements made herein of my own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and further that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under Section 1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application or any patent issued thereon.

I hereby appoint H. Keith Miller, Reg. No. 22,484, and each principal, attorney of counsel, associate and employee of Harness, Dickey & Pierce, P.L.C., who is a registered Patent Attorney, my attorney with full power of substitution and revocation, to prosecute this application and to transact all business in the Patent and Trademark Office connected therewith. I request the Patent and Trademark Office to direct all correspondence and telephone calls relative to this application to Harness, Dickey & Pierce, P.L.C., P. O. Box 828, Bloomfield Hills, Michigan 48303 (248) 641-1600.

Full name of sole or first inventor: Hal J. Miller, Jr. _____

Inventor's signature: _____

Date: 7-17-00 _____

Residence: 37510 Jefferson, Apt. 303, Harrison Township, Michigan 48045 _____

Citizenship: U.S. _____

Post Office Address: same as above _____